

"In My Opinion"

Text: Jeremiah 23:28 "Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream,  
but let him who has my word speak my word faithfully."

Several years ago, a cult of people in California, made the assertion that the world would end on a certain day during the summer of that year. So they packed all of their provisions and belongings and many of them went to live in caves on a hillside to await the end. Their surprise must have been unbounded when that day came and ~~want~~ and the world still went on. I can recall hearing reporters telling how these people went <sup>STILETTOS</sup> quietly back to their homes without any fanfare. But they were <sup>MUCH</sup> more vocal when they were proclaiming the end of the world.

This is a good example of false prophets. ~~Jesus told~~ In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus told the people to beware of false prophets. He said they come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves. He went on to say, "By their fruits you will know them."

The prophet Jeremiah spoke against the false prophets in our scripture this morning. He said, "Don't listen to the false prophets who speak of vain hopes, who speak visions of their minds, which are not from the mouth of God. They will tell those that despise the Lord, that all is well, and to everyone who stubbornly refuses to follow God's way, that no evil shall come upon you."

But, he asks, "Who among them has stood in the council of the Lord, to perceive and hear his word, or who has given heed to his word and listened?" He tells that God has said, "I did not send the prophets, yet they ran; I did not speak to them, yet they prophesied. But if they had stood in my counsel, then they would have proclaimed my words to my people, and they would have turned them from their evil way, and from the evil of their doings." He tells of God asking if man can hide himself from God? God says that he can see man and he knows what man is saying and doing. "I have heard what the prophets

have said who prophesy lies in my name saying, 'I have dreamed, I have dreamed!' How long shall there be lies in the heart of the prophets who prophesy lies, and who prophesy the deceit of their own heart, who think to make my people forget my name by their dreams which they tell one another, even as their fathers forgot my name for Ba al? Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let him who has my word speak my word faithfully."

*PERHAPS*  
A We are living in an age that has more false prophets, than ~~at~~ any other time in the history of the world. Jeremiah could very easily be speaking to us today and telling us to let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let him who has the word of God speak that word faithfully.

A minister told of being stopped for a personal interview on the street. He said he could well imagine the radio audience holding its collective breath awaiting the pearls to drop from his mouth. He said he felt that surely the announcer must have perceived that here was a very intelligent and discerning individual. A man whose very wisdom had gone untapped for too long. He said, "There is probably no greater flattery we can give someone ~~than~~ than to ask his opinion on something."

We all have opinions and we are perfectly willing to share them at the drop of a hat. On the Thursday night movie this past week Eli Wallach the noted actor portrayed a man who ~~was~~ is like so many people in the world today, a number and not a person. His sense of not belonging made him want to do something spectacular, so he plotted to kidnap a woman to prove his point. It was a rather hilarious, yet stupid plot, and after he had abducted this woman and taken her to his apartment, she begins to tell him something and he shouts at her, "Shut up, shut up, I don't want to hear your opinions. Everyone has opinions, and I don't want to hear yours."

This is about what our age amounts to, opinions, opinions and more opinions. Let the president speak on television for 30 minutes and then we must be subjected to 15 minutes of what the commentators think he said. Look at the entertainment section of the paper ~~at the movies~~ and you will find reviews written by someone whose opinion is supposed to shape your thinking as to whether a certain picture <sup>OR PLAY</sup> is good or bad. Look at the television section of the paper and someone there has written a review of which programs are in their opinion the best. A survey is taken of about 1000 or 1500 people as to what programs they are watching on a certain night and this is supposed to be the average opinion for the nation, and so some programs that perhaps you and I think are good, are dumped.

~~Perhaps we need to start praying as one man supposedly did, "Lord, give me this day my daily opinion, and forgive me the one I had yesterday."~~

The investment counselors tell me what I should do with whatever money I have. The opinion of some star athlete should determine which razor blade I use, or which cereal I should eat, or which hair tonic I should use. The opinions of movie stars determine what cosmetics are best for miladys complexion or which soap is better. The opinion of the supreme court can change the entire course of our nation. The opinion of a jury decides the guilt or innocence of a person accused. Amy Vanderbilt or Emily Post determines which fork I shall use for my salad or ~~which~~ whether I should eat chicken in public with my fingers, (as I can do in the privacy of my home).

Perhaps we need to pray as one man supposedly did,  
"Lord, give me this day my daily opinion, and forgive me for the one I had yesterday."

In my opinion, the voices of the preachers and so called prophets have only been expressing opinions for too many years now.



Instead of sounding forth as true prophets ~~should~~, too often the words have been merely opinions. The difference between a true prophet and a false prophet according to Jeremiah and all the prophets, was if the message could be prefaced with the words, "Thus says the Lord." If this term could not be applied to a prophecy then it was not legitimate.

Well, "thus says the Lord" today as He has always said, "Beware of false prophets!" There are too many voices today clamoring to be heard and unfortunately some of them are to be heard in our churches. Instead of the Gospel of Jesus Christ being proclaimed, the Gospel of Man and Man's needs is being proclaimed. Instead of the message of Salvation, the message of saving yourself through doing things is being preached. If we are to be truly led by God and to be truly open to His voice, then we must listen for Him in His word, the scriptures, and we must listen for Him in our lives.

The Gospel of ~~the~~ Jesus Christ is ever the same and will always remain so, ~~and that is~~, ~~we~~ are sinners, and the wages of sin is death, and we cannot save ourselves by good works and deeds. We can only ~~be~~ be saved by coming to Jesus Christ and accepting Him personally in our lives. ~~So to~~ ~~those~~ ~~prophets~~ ~~who~~ ~~would~~ ~~have~~ ~~us~~ ~~believe~~ ~~that~~ ~~we~~ ~~have~~ ~~salvation~~ ~~by~~ ~~working~~ ~~in~~ ~~the~~ ~~ghettos~~, ~~or~~ ~~by~~ ~~helping~~ ~~in~~ ~~the~~ ~~social~~ ~~movements~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~day~~, ~~we~~ ~~must~~ ~~ignore~~ ~~their~~ ~~opinions~~ and listen to what the Lord says. Jesus said, "No man comes to the Father except by me." So if we are to ~~believe~~ ~~the~~ be Christian, we must believe ~~what~~ Christ tells us. We must come to know Him in other words.

~~The~~ At a large dinner party, a certain well known stage actor was asked to entertain. He had chosen to recite the 23rd Psalm. (Illustration of Knowing the Shepherd.)

Here is a good example of knowing the lines, being able to present them flawlessly, and yet, not being able to convey the message, because of an incomplete knowledge of the Shepherd.

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
 BUTLER, PENNSYLVANIA  
 NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST August 4, 1974  
 REV. RALPH C. LINK, PASTOR  
 MRS. VELMA COLLINS, ORGANIST  
 MR. RALPH COOPER, CHOIR DIRECTOR  
 RANDY DELLEN, GREG BOSKO - ACOLYTES

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 ORDER OF WORSHIP 10:00 A.M.  
 PRELUDE MUSIC: "MORNING PRELUDE" ANDRE!  
 "ANOANTE AMOROSO" ZITTERBAT

SILENT PRAYER  
 \*PROCESSIONAL HYMN No. 381 "FLING OUT THE BANNER!"  
 \*ASCRPTION - CHORAL AMEN  
 \*EXHORTATION  
 \*CONFESSION (IN UNISON) "OUR HEAVENLY FATHER, WHO BY  
 THY LOVE HAST MADE US, AND THROUGH THY LOVE HAST KEPT  
 US, AND IN THY LOVE WOULDST MAKE US PERFECT: WE HUMBLV  
 CONFESS THAT WE HAVE NOT LOVED THEE WITH ALL OUR HEART  
 AND SOUL AND MIND AND STRENGTH, AND THAT WE HAVE NOT  
 LOVED ONE ANOTHER AS CHRIST HATH LOVED US. THY LIFE IS  
 WITHIN OUR SOULS, BUT OUR SELFISHNESS HATH HINDERED THEE.  
 WE HAVE NEGLECTED THINE INSPIRATIONS. FORGIVE WHAT WE  
 HAVE BEEN; HELP US TO AMEND WHAT WE ARE; AND IN THY  
 SPIRIT DIRECT WHAT WE SHALL BE; THAT THOU MAYEST COME  
 INTO THE FULL GLORY OF THY CREATION, IN US AND IN ALL  
 MEN; THROUGH JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD. AMEN."  
 \*KYRIE (CHOIR, CONGREGATION AND PASTOR)  
 \*ASSURANCE OF PARDON - CHORAL AMEN  
 \*PRAISE  
 \*PASTOR: O LORD OPEN OUR LIPS.  
 \*PEOPLE: AND OUR MOUTH SHALL SHOW FORTH THY PRAISE.  
 \*DOXOLOGY No. 55!  
 SCRIPTURE LESSON: JEREMIAH 23: 16-32  
 HYMN No. 392 "JESUS, THOU DIVINE COMPANION"  
 \*AFFIRMATION OF OUR FAITH (APOSTLES' CREED)  
 \*GLORIA PATRI  
 \*CALL TO PRAYER  
 \*PASTOR: THE LORD BE WITH YOU.  
 \*PEOPLE: AND WITH THY SPIRIT.  
 \*PASTOR: LET US PRAY.  
 PRAYER AND PRAYER RESPONSE

OFFERING  
 OFFERTORY: "MEDITATION" KINDER  
 SOLO: MISS DENISE REED FROM AKRON OHIO-GUEST SOLOIST  
 SERMON: "IN MY OPINION!"  
 PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER  
 \*HYMN OF DEDICATION No. 402 "LET THERE BE LIGHT"  
 \*BENEDICTION AND THREE FOLD AMEN  
 ORGAN POSTLUDE: "ALLEGRO" PEERY  
 -----  
 \*CONGREGATION STANDING -----  
 THE LOVELY FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR HAVE BEEN PLACED BY  
 MR. & MRS. WILMER PEERY TO THE "GLORY OF GOD".  
 SERVING AS USHERS TODAY ARE: \*ALLEN BOTAGCHI, JOHN  
 REOMAN, DAN BOSKO, ROBERT KNAUER AND CHARLES PENAR.  
 DEACON AND MRS. ROBERT KNAUER WILL REPRESENT COUNCIL  
 AT THE DOOR TODAY.  
 NURSERY WILL BE PROVIDED TODAY BY MRS. SHARON STAUFFER  
 AND LAUREL STAUFFER AND DEBBIE MCPRIE.  
 MONDAY - WOMEN'S MARY PRUGH CIRCLE PICNIC - AUGUST  
 5 AT 6:00 O'CLOCK. MEAT, DESSERT AND BEVERAGE WILL  
 BE FURNISHED.  
 TUESDAY - PROPERTY COMMITTEE MEETING - 7:00 - THIS  
 IS IMPORTANT THAT YOU ATTEND.  
 WEDNESDAY - NO COUNCIL MEETING THIS WEEK - COUNCIL  
 MEETING WILL BE HELD AT 7:30 P.M. - AUGUST 14TH.  
 THE ARC CLASS MEMBERS ARE ASKED TO PICK UP THEIR  
 SUNDAY SCHOOL MATERIAL IN THE OFFICE - SO THAT YOU  
 MAY LOOK IT OVER BY THE TIME CLASS RESUMES SEPT. 1.  
 AS OF TODAY THE FLOWERS WILL BE DIFFERENT EACH WEEK  
 AND THE PRICE HAS GONE UP TO \$10.80. WE HAVE MADE  
 A CHECK OF ALL THE FLORISTS AND THIS IS NOT OUT OF  
 LINE. IF A FAMILY WOULD LIKE TO GO TOGETHER FOR A  
 SUNDAY THIS IS NO PROBLEM. YOU WILL GET CREDIT ON  
 YOUR STATEMENT AT THE END OF THE YEAR FOR ALL FLOWER  
 PURCHASES FOR THE ALTAR. SEPTEMBER 1, 15, 29 ARE  
 OPEN AS WELL AS OCT. 27, NOV. 3, 10, 17 AND OTHERS  
 IN DECEMBER EXCEPT FOR 22ND.  
 ARC CAMPING - CAMPING FEE OF \$4.00 PLUS LICENCES  
 TO BE IN BY TODAY TO BRUCE MCPRIE'S OR HOWARD  
 BOLAM'S. TOUR OF THE GREENVILLE HOME IS PLANNED  
 FOR SUNDAY.  
 THE ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY - 134  
 THERE WILL BE A SHORT MEETING OF THOSE THAT ARE GOING  
 CAMPING IN THE UNDERCROFT RIGHT AFTER TH SERVICE TODAY  
 WELCOME VISITORS  
 WELCOME MISS REED

Pres. speaks on TV 30 min, & commentators will take 15 to tell us what they think he said, Look entertain section paper, U will find reviews w/ tten by someone whose opin supposed shape ur thinking whether certain picture or play good/bad L: TV section paper see reviews what someone thinks best TV shows, in their ppin.  
 A survey taken among 1M 1500 peop as what program they watch on cert nite, & this supposed be natl avg, thus some programs U I think good, R dumped  
 Investment counselors tell me what I should do with whatever money I may have.  
 opin some star athlete should determine which blade I use, or witch cereal I eat, or witch hair tonic I should use on my thinning hair.  
 Opins movie stars dtermine which cosmetics best for mlladys complex, or which soap better.  
 Opin Supreme Court can change entire course of nation  
 Opin of jury decides guilt or innocence person accuse  
 Amy Vanderbilt or Emily Post determines which fork I shall use for salad, or whether I should eat chicken in public with my fingers, (as I can do in privacy of my home)  
 Perhaps need pray as 1 man did, "Lord, give me this day my daily opin, & forgive me 4 the 1 I had yester."  
 In MY Opin, the voices of preachers & prophets have many times only been expressing opins # 2 manny yrs. Insted sound 4th as tru pr's, too often words only opins  
 D f tween tru pr. & fals pr, accord Jere & all pr's was if message preface with words, "Thus says Lord"  
 If this term could not be apply prophecy then not legit  
 Well, "Thus says the Lord" today as He always said, "Beware Of False Prophets"  
 There 2 many voices clamoring be herd, unfortunately some herd in our churches  
 Insted Gosp Js Xp be proclaimed, Gosp mans needs & Gosp of man being proclaimed  
 Insted Gosp Salv be preach, message of save self thru doing things be preached  
 If we 2 be truly led by God, be truly open His voice we must listen for Him in His Word, The Scriptures  
 P we must listen for Him in our lives  
 It is time we looked at ~~xxx~~ what are our convictions and what are our opins.  
 Someone said, "Peop die for convictions, but not for opins."

# "In My Opinion!"

Text: Jeremiah 23: 28,

"The prophet that hath a dream, let him tell a dream; an he that hath my word, let him speak my word faithfully."

Several yrs ago, cult of peop prophesied end of world These peop live Calif.

said certain day, during summer yr world end/ Packed all provisions, & belongings went live caves in hills, await end.

Their surprise must been unbounded when day came/went still no end. World went on

Can recall hear reporters tell how peop went silentl quietly back to homes, no fanfare.

But were more vocal when proclaiming end of world.

This good examp false propets.

Serm Mt, Js tell peop beware false pr.

He say, come sheep clothing, inwardly like ravenous wolves.

He go on say, "By their fruits you shall know them"

Pr. Jere spoke against false pr in scrip

He say, vs 16, they speak lies supposedly from God.

He questions vs 18, if they have stood before God & gotten the message from Him.

He tell God's wrath upon false pr. vss 19, 20

God has said thru him (Jeremiah), He did bot send th( pr's yet they prophesied, vs 21,

H<sup>u</sup> they stood before Him they would have performed the duty of real pr, preach repentance to winners. vs 22

He tell God ask if man can hide from God, vs 24

He tell God's Word powerful, strong vs 29

God against all false prophets, & prophecies vss 30-32

We live age more fals pr's, perhaps any other

Jere culd easily be speak us 2day.

tell us, "let prophet who has dream, tell dream, but let him who has Word of God, speak that Word faithfully."

(Minister being stopped interview illustration)

We all have opins, & perfectly willing share at drop of hint to do so.

(Illustration Eli Wallech and old movie)

This about what our age amt to, opins, opins, & more opins.

Shirley & Ralph Charles Link, Nancy Link, Dale with Lianne his wife, Lloyd Link with Karen his wife  
 Jessica in front of Ralph C. Link  
 Ethan and Alisha in front of R. Dale and Lianne Link (the eldest son & family)

